Welcome

Your Guide to Laurel, MD

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Forest: Hillel Steinberg
Grazing Animals: Amy Mason
Hot Air Balloon: Kelly Covington

About Laurel

CVM Office Located in Laurel, MD

- Office of Research

Laurel, Maryland was formed from land on the fall line of the Patuxent River owned by the Snowden family, who also owned Montpelier. A grist mill on the site, circa 1811, grew to a small cotton mill by the 1820s. In 1835, coinciding with the opening of the Capital Subdivision rail line from Baltimore to Washington, the Patuxent Manufacturing Company was chartered and the mill expanded greatly. Mill president, Horace Capron, with his partners, built housing for close to 300 workers, as well as a bigger cotton mill. Cotton duck from the mill was shipped down what would become Laurel's Main Street, then by rail to Baltimore. A substantial dam was built in 1850. As a mill town, Laurel was somewhat unique in Prince George's County and was surrounded by agricultural endeavors.

The community was originally known as Laurel Factory and was a true company town, with a school, shops, and many of the mill workers' homes owned by the company, until the 1860s. During the Civil War, Laurel Factory, like much of Maryland, was a divided community, but with many Southern sympathizers. Union soldiers patrolled the railroad and for a time there was also a Union hospital. During the latter half of the 19th century, while it still operated its factories, manufacturing played a less important role in the community. Laurel evolved into an early suburban town - many of its residents commuted by rail to jobs in Washington or Baltimore. The town was incorporated in 1870 and reincorporated in 1890 to coincide with a new electric power plant and paved streets.

Citizens National Bank opened its doors on Main Street in 1890 as Prince George's County's first nationally chartered bank and remained independently managed and with the same name until acquired by PNC Financial Services in 2007. Branch services are still provided from the original building.

In 1899, Laurel's seven-time mayor Edward Phelps succeeded in constructing the first high school in Prince George's County despite several financial obstacles. The original building, now known as the Phelps Community Center, still stands at the northeast corner of Montgomery and Eighth Streets. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Laurel is traversed from north to south by U.S. 1, which links Key West, Florida, with the Canadian border in Maine. On the west, the city is bordered by Interstate 95, and beyond the eastern border lies the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Crossing all of these highways is the east-west artery of Maryland Route 198, which intersects with U.S. 1 in the heart of Laurel.

Housing

Maryland and Virginia Real Estate: http://www.homefinders.com/

The Washington Post Apartment Showcase: http://www.apartmentshowcase.com/

DC Metro Condos for Sale: http://washingtondc.condo.com/ForSale

Real Estate Agent Evaluator: http://www.agentevaluator.com/findabuyeragent.php?entryid=9003

My Cheap Apartments.Com: http://www.mycheapapartments.com/

Realtor.com: http://www.realtor.com/

Real Estate.com: http://www.realestate.com/

Redfin: http://www.redfin.com/home

Century 21: http://www.century21.com/

Coldwell Banker: http://www.coldwellbanker.com/

Remax: http://www.remax.com/

Keller Williams Realty: http://www.kw.com/kw/

The Cretaceous Era brought dinosaurs to the area, which left a number of fossils, now preserved in a 7.5-acre park in Laurel. The site, which among other finds has yielded fossilized teeth from Astrodon and Priconodon species, has been called the most prolific in the eastern United States.

Moving

America Van Line
Phone: 410-526-2695
Toll Free: 866-363-7247

Green Wheels LLC
Toll Free: 866-406-6837

Best Choice Moving & Storage, Inc.
Phone: 240-888-0815
Toll Free: 800-778-8569

Metro Vanlines
Phone: 240-482-8778
Toll Free: 888-955-3725

Additional Information

U-HAUL: http://www.uhaul.com/
123 Movers: http://www.123movers.com/moving_companies/maryland/state-MD/s-residential/state.html
Metropolitan Moving and Storage: http://www.dcmetropolitanmoving.com/
Beltway Movers: http://www.beltwaymovers.com/

Utilities
Maryland, Virginia, and DC Utility Companies: http://www.och.umd.edu/Uploads/OCH/Utility_Companies.pdf

Two MARC train stations on the Camden Line to Baltimore and Washington, D.C., are located in Laurel: Laurel Station and Laurel Racetrack Station, the latter with minimal service. Laurel Station is a particularly notable example of the stations designed by E. Francis Baldwin for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Schools

Private Schools in the DC Metro Area
Private Boys' Schools: http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/businesscareers/17199.html
Private Girls' Schools: http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/businesscareers/17198.html
Private Coed Schools: http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/businesscareers/17163.html
Private Special Needs Schools: http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/businesscareers/17200.html

Public Schools in the DC Metro Area
Public Schools in the DC Metro Area: http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21970.htm

Additional Resources
The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide: AAFSW: http://www.aafsw.org/
Contains information with links to preschool resources, schools and county programs, organizations for parents, toy stores/book stores/restaurants, libraries, and more, in the greater Washington, DC area.

Washington Post Education Page: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/education/index.html
Highlights the latest information about Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia schools. Click on the School Survey map for an alpha listing of schools. Click on the school of choice for a wealth of information, broken down by subject area. This is a great way to compare stats on Washington area schools.

Homefair.com: http://www.homefair.com/sr_home.html
Offers a free, detailed school report on almost any school in the country using public information sources.

Assignment Washington: U.S. Public and Private Schools: http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21942.htm

Homeschooling and Online Education: http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21941.htm

Summer Camp Resources: http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21943.htm

Homework Helpers: http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c21999.htm

The primary emergency services providers for the City of Laurel and surrounding parts of Prince George's County are the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (Company 10) and the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (Company 49). Both companies are part of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

Entertainment

Baltimore Fun Guide: http://www.baltimorefunguide.com/

Baltimore Tourism/Entertainment: http://baltimore.org/

Washington Post Going Out Guide: http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/

Activities for Children in the DC Metro Area: http://www.our-kids.com/

Family Activities in the DC Metro Area: http://gocitykids.parentsconnect.com/region/washington-dc-usa

15 Best Places to go With Kids in the DC Area: http://dc.about.com/od/childrensactivities/tp/15BestforKids.htm

Art Centers: http://dc.about.com/od/artcenters/Art_Centers_Art_Music_Classes_Performances_and_Events.htm

Art Galleries and Museums: http://dc.about.com/od/artmuseums/Art_Galleries_and_Museums.htm

Choir and Choral Groups:
http://dc.about.com/od/choralgroups/Choir_and_Choral_Groups_in_Washington_DC_Maryland_and_Virginia.htm

Concert Tickets and Venues:
http://dc.about.com/od/concerts/Concerts_in_Washington_DC_Maryland_and_Northern_Virginia.htm

Food Festivals: http://dc.about.com/od/foodfestivals/Food_Festivals_in_the_Washington_DC_Area.htm

Music Festivals: http://dc.about.com/od/musicfestivals/Music_Festivals_in_the_Washington_DC_Area.htm

Movie Theaters: http://dc.about.com/od/movietheatres/Movie_Theaters.htm

Nightclubs: http://dc.about.com/od/nightclubs/Nightclubs_in_the_Washington_DC_Area.htm

Theaters: http://dc.about.com/od/theaters/Theaters_in_Washington_DC_Maryland_and_Northern_Virginia.htm

Volunteer Opportunities

Boards and Committees in Laurel: http://www.laurel.md.us/content/boardscommittees

Laurel Parks and Recreation: http://www.laurel.md.us/content/parks-and-recreation

Laurel is governed by a 5-member city council and a mayor. There are two political wards in the city. The first ward is generally the area north of Maryland Route 198 and the second ward is to the south. Two council members are elected from each ward, and a council member is elected at large.

Pets

Washingtonian.com's Best Veterinarians in the DC Metro Area:
http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/homegarden/6778.html

Washingtonian.com's Ultimate Pet Guide: http://www.washingtonian.com/packages/pets/index.html

Veterinarians in the DC Metro Area: http://localdc.com/veterinarians.htm

Pet Boarding, Sitting, and Walking in the DC Metro Area: http://www.metropets.org/YellowPages/daycare.php

Dog Parks in the DC Metro Area: http://dc.about.com/od/animalspets/a/Dog-Parks-In-Washington-DC-Maryland-And-Northern-Virginia.htm

DC Metro Area Dog Park Map: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/metro/interactives/dogparks/

Baltimore Pet Guide: http://www.baltimoremagazine.net/features/2009/01/the-ultimate-pet-guide

Baltimore Metro Veterinarians: http://www.dexknows.com/local/pets/veterinarians/geo/m-baltimore_metro-md/

Laurel Veterinarians: http://www.dexknows.com/local/pets/veterinarians/geo/c-laurel-md/

Laurel has two local newspapers: Laurel Leader and The Laurel Gazette. In addition, there is one mediumwave AM radio station, WILC ("Viva 900") serving the Hispanic community.

Medical Centers

Maryland
Maryland Hospitals: http://www.theagapecenter.com/Hospitals/Maryland.htm
Dimensions Healthcare System: http://www.dimensionshealth.org/website/index.php
National Institutes of Health (NIH): http://www.nih.gov/
Laurel Regional Hospital: http://www.dimensionshealth.org/website/c/lrh/
Howard County General Hospital: http://www.hcgh.org/content/

Virginia
Virginia Hospitals: http://www.theagapecenter.com/Hospitals/Virginia.htm
Inova Health System: http://www.inova.org/
Fauquier Hospital: http://www.fauquierhospital.org/
Mary Washington Hospital: http://www.marywashingtonhealthcare.com/
Northern Virginia Community Hospital: http://www.nvchospital.com/cpm/message.htm
Prince William Hospital: http://www.pwhs.org/
Reston Hospital: http://www.restonhospital.com/
Virginia Hospital Center: http://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/

Washington, D.C.
Washington D.C. Hospitals: http://www.theagapecenter.com/Hospitals/Washington-DC.htm
George Washington University Hospital: http://www.pwhs.org/
Washington Hospital Center: http://www.whcenter.org/
Sibley: http://www.sibley.org/

Additional Links
US News & World Report "Best Hospitals": http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area
Best Hospitals in Washington, DC: http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/washington-dc
Best Doctors by Area: http://health.usnews.com/top-doctors?s_cid=related-links:TOP
Baltimore's Top Doctors: http://www.baltimoremagazine.net/features/2010/11/top-doctors-2010
Baltimore's Top Dentists: http://www.baltimoremagazine.net/features/2010/04/top-dentists-2010
Washintonian.com's Top Dentists: http://www.washingtonian.com/packages/topdentists2011/index.html
Dentists in the DC Metro Area: http://www.dexknows.com/local/health_care/dentistry/general_dentists/geo/m-washington_dc_metro-dc/

The city government supports an annual LakeFest in May and Independence Day celebration each July. Since 1981, the Laurel Board of Trade has sponsored a Main Street Festival (held on Saturday of Mother's Day weekend) each May, and since 1995 a RiverFest each October. The Montpelier Mansion grounds have hosted an annual festival the first weekend in May since 1971.

Dining

The Washington Post's Going Out Guide: http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/best-bets/best-restaurants-DC.html

Washingtonian.com's 100 Best Restaurants in DC Metro Area: http://www.washingtonian.com/sections/restaurants/100best/index.html

Washingtonian.com's Rockville Dining Guide: http://www.washingtonian.com/articles/restaurants/13344.html

DC Metro Area Dining Guide: http://washington.dc.diningguide.com/

Baltimore Eats Dining Guide: http://www.baltimoreeats.com/

Baltimore Dining Guide: http://baltimore.diningguide.com/

Open Table: http://www.opentable.com/start.aspx?m=9

Restaurants in Laurel: http://dinesite.com/city/city-6760/?&t=3

Laurel Restaurant Reviews: http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g41224-Laurel_Maryland.html

Future President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower and their first son (Doud Dwight, about 5 months old) lived at Mrs. Ray's Boarding House at 327 Montgomery Street and at Halverson's Boarding House in Laurel in March 1918 during the couple's second year of marriage.

Shopping

Malls in the DC Metro Area: http://localdc.com/shopping.htm

Outlet Malls in the DC Metro Area: http://dc.about.com/od/shopping/a/Outletshopping.htm

DC Metro Area Shopping Guide: http://washington.dc.retailguide.com/

Shopping in Baltimore: http://www.baltimore.world-guides.com/baltimore_shopping.html

Laurel Specialty Shops: http://www.discoverourtown.com/MD/Laurel/Shopping-2203.html

Best Neighborhoods for Shopping in the Washington, DC Area:
http://dc.about.com/od/shoppingmalls/a/ShoppingGuide.htm

On August 29, 2005, Laurel adopted Laurel, Mississippi as a sister city to help with Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery. In the two years following adoption, the government, businesses and residents of Laurel, MD raised more than $20,000 for Laurel, MS.

Sports

Washington Redskins: http://www.redskins.com/

Washington Mystics: http://www.wnba.com/mystics/

Washington Wizards: http://www.nba.com/wizards/index_main.html

Washington Capitals: http://capitals.nhl.com/

Washington Nationals: http://washington.nationals.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=was

Bowie Baysox: http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t418

Baltimore Orioles: http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=bal

Baltimore Ravens: http://www.baltimoreravens.com/

Additional Sports and Recreation Information:
http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/U_S__States/Washington__D_C_/Recreation_and_Sports/

Laurel's Mayor and City Council announced the re-naming of the Laurel Community Center, located at 7901 Cypress Street, during a ceremony on March 11, 2009. The new name, 'the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center' was a way to show their appreciation to former Mayor DiPietro for his 35 years of continuous work and dedication to the City of Laurel.

Additional Information

Laurel Website: http://www.cityoflaurel.org/

Rockville Website: http://www.rockvillemd.gov/

Maryland Website: http://www.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Maryland Tourism: http://visitmaryland.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Virginia Website: http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/

Virginia Travel Guide: http://www.virginia.org/

Baltimore City Guide: http://www.hellobaltimore.com/

Guide to Baltimore: http://www.baltimore.world-guides.com/

Historic Alexandria, Virginia: http://oha.alexandriava.gov/

Metro Trip Planner: http://www.wmata.com/rider_tools/tripplanner/tripplanner_form_solo.cfm

DC Metro Rail Maps: http://www.wmata.com/rail/maps/map.cfm

DC Metro Area Information for Maryland: http://dcmetro.maryland.com/

Washington DC Chamber of Commerce: http://www.dcchamber.org/

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority: http://www.metwashairports.com/

DC Metro Area Commuter Page: http://www.commuterpage.com/

Department of Motor Vehicles (Virginia): http://www.dmv.state.va.us/

Department of Motor Vehicles (DC): http://dmv.dc.gov/main.shtm

Motor Vehicle Administration (Maryland): http://www.mva.maryland.gov/

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